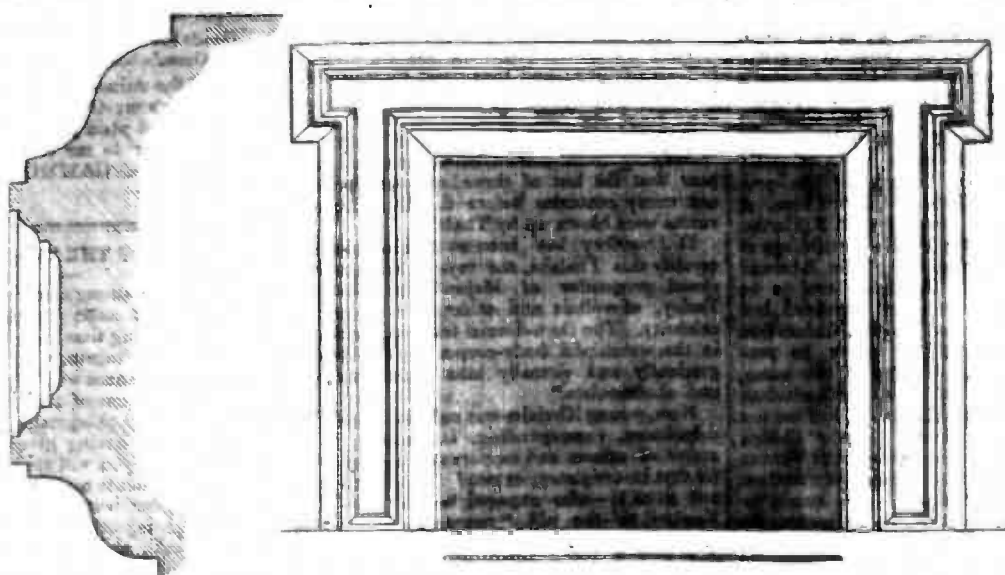


CHIMNEY PIECE, VILLA MADAMA, ROME.



bed; but in death as in life, his thoughts were of his children, and his cry was, "My poor Willy, my poor Mary! what will become of them?" And friends came—and the minister amongst them—and with the grief gurgling in their throats, tried to administer peace, consolation, to the dying man; but in vain—between himself and consolation he saw his pale-faced children fatherless! At last one friend came and said, "Fear not, you leave them a rich legacy,—rest assured your teachings will not be forgotten: the seed you have sown will not be lost. And your books—which to you have been such household gods—will be the same to them, and open their minds, and through them minister lovingly to the Great God of all!"

Oh peace—consolation, said the dying man, and he spoke no more.

Would that every working man, whose hour was come, had as rich a legacy to leave!

Besides this error of sacrificing the present to the future, there is another which should be noticed. It cannot be doubted but that the simplification of our wants is an end worthy the striving for; but is it not one of the results of pursuing a system of morality?—a consequence, not a beginning? Diogenes had seen and thought much before he retired to his tub; and there he had cogitated much before, in reply to Alexander's offer to grant him a favour, he mildly replied, "Stand aside, that the glorious sunshine may reach me."

It is a very great but common error that the working classes must be written "down to"—that we need a particular literature, or a literature of a particular style. No; train us to habits of thought,—teach us to think, and to try to think aright; this is all we want,—it is all every class wants; in this particular we are not peculiar.

From the time of Franklin to the "Old Mason," one particular style has been adopted towards us—a style that we especially dislike. Philanthropists and economists come into our habitations, ransack and take an inventory of the contents of our cupboards, how much we eat and drink—in short, study our habits as they would wild animals—and then publish a little truth sometimes, but always a great deal of error about us. Would this be endured by any other class? Would John, duke of Plantagenet, endure it? Then why John Noakes, the mason? However well-intentioned this philanthropy may be, it always has failed—it always will fail; because the writers seek to eradicate an effect, and leave the cause to germinate afresh. Admitting that waste and extravagance exist among the working classes, it is but the necessary and inevitable effect or consequence of a cause. And what is that cause? I think but few will doubt that it is ignorance. Then, decrease the power of the

cause, and the effect will, in a like ratio, also decrease. And let him who would benefit us set to work, and hew and cut slashingly, like another St. George, at the dragon Ignorance; let him shew the mechanics upon what beautiful mathematical principles their crafts depend—what they know (without being sensible of it) practically, let him teach them theoretically, and so set them thinking—as they will when this is done—and trying to work out new results from old Euclidian and Archimedian principles; for, of a certainty, it is strange if we have arrived at perfection in joinery, or even masonry. And further, he may show us how our lives, which too often pass so wearily, may be made pleasant—aye, hard muscle-tearing work pleasant—by teaching us to work intelligently.

Do you think that the Theutic brotherhoods—the "masonries" of architecture—the architects who individually and collectively dotted Europe in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries with churches and cathedrals of wondrous beauty and varied design, had often to complain, like the architects of the present day have, of bad and indifferent workmen? Oh, no; the Celtic nations, fresh from their woodland haunts, with the remembrance of nature mingled with a strong passionate faith in their new religion, were true and intelligent workers; they felt the ideas of the architect, great as his genius might be; there was a sympathy between them, that, alas! is in a great degree wanting now; and unity, harmony of design, from the spires to the slightest ornament, was the consequence of this intelligent working.

Then, up and to work, good spirits! Teach, teach; lessen our ignorance—be it never so little, do something towards it; believe me, it will be far better, nobler work, than teaching us to hoard pence; and should you be discouraged, think into how many poor, dark, benighted souls this Publication has shed a little light, and how that light is increasing, growing brighter and stronger, and what a glorious army of workers we may have in the future time. See to this; begin—there is a magic in beginning—and no cheer will be heartier, no prayer more fervent, than the "God speed you" of

BROWLIF, & CARPENTER.

"Beowulf" and the "Old Mason" are not opponents, but fellow-workers in a good cause: and most sincerely do we hope that both may be listened to. Prudence, forethought, avoidance of evil and improvident habits, self culture, and an honest ambition to advance in the scale of society, are the objects sought to be inculcated.

We have received several other letters on the subject from working men, the majority of them most creditable to their writers. We

hope they believe us when we repeat, that we have no desire to keep down wages—quite the reverse: or even, at this moment, to discuss what are and what are not sufficient. We would assist in leading the working classes to do the best that can be done with what they have, improve the present, and be not forgetful of the future. We heartily wish their position was better than it is, and would gladly aid in improving it. We have good reason to know that great distress prevails in parts.

CHIMNEY-PIECE, VILLA MADAMA, ROME.

THE villa was built for Giulio, Cardinal Medici (afterwards Clement VII.), by Giulio Romano, who, as Vasari says, had 'il carico di tutto' connected with the place, and accordingly was both architect, landscape gardener, and house decorator, to his eminence. The clear opening of this chimney-piece is 5 feet by 4 feet 8½ inches, the effect of the mouldings very good. Chimney-pieces of this description were common throughout Italy at that period.

SMALL DRAINS.

LAST week Mr. Freeman, of Kennington-road (from whom a letter as to trapping-drains appears in our present number) applied to the magistrate at the Lambeth office for his advice under the following circumstances.

From the statement of Mr. Freeman it appeared that, in the early part of the month of February last, he had applied to the Sewers Commissioners to have a drain or communication from his premises with the common sewer in the Kennington-road, and on the 27th of that month persons were set to work to make the required communication. The small tube piping of 4, or rather 3½-inch diameter, lately adopted, was laid down for the purpose, but on the 14th of March it was found to be stopped up; so that the trenches had to be re-opened, and the same pipes relaid, but with a greater fall. A second stoppage, however, took place, and the applicant, in consequence, had communicated several times with the Earl of Carlisle on the subject, and the result was that the principal surveyor to the board was called on twice to report on the subject. The drains were opened a third time, and had remained so from the 24th March to the present, to the greatest annoyance and imminent danger to the health of himself, his family, and servants. After some conversation, the magistrate said he had no power to assist him.